

The Almanian

Volume C

Issue 10

Friday, December 8, 2006

"Serving Alma College Since 1907"

UNDER THE COVER

Center for Student Development looks at issues of diversity on campus.

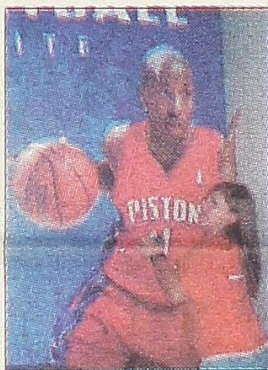
SEE NEWS PG. 2

The holidays are a time for giving, and the Alma College community is certainly doing its part.

SEE FEATURE PG. 4

Seniors should devote work, not money, for bulk of senior gift.

SEE OPINION PG. 6



Caught on camera: Alma students travel to see the Detroit Pistons.

SEE SPORTS PG. 8

BY THE NUMBERS

26

The years since Beatles member John Lennon was shot and killed on December 8.

132

The number of days until winter term ends on April 20, 2007.

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Student life prepares for facelift

Jones, Rotunda, and the Hole will be remodeled as early as this year..

LAUREN RUSSELL
STAFF WRITER

Students who skipped the recent email from Jerry Scoby, Financial Vice President for Alma College, may have skipped out on a chance to give their input on changes they would like to see made to areas in Tyler Van Dusen. Such areas include the

Rotunda, Jones Auditorium and the Hole by Joe's.

The survey was sent by campus-wide email in order to hear what students thought was the most important change to make to each facility.

"We are committed to making some nice changes in the near future," said Sandra Tracy, president

of Alma College, "but [we] want [the changes] to be what students most want."

The survey questions asked students to rank in order the new items the students felt would best serve them from the most important to the least. Some of the new items included plasma TVs, SEE ROTUNDA PG. 2



Photo courtesy of Nick Green

Alma College Physical Plant workers begin taking down the curtains in the Rotunda last week. Administration recently polled the Alma College community to see what they wanted to see happen to this area as well as the Hole and Jones. These results will be published in a future *Almanian* issue. You can expect to see some of these changes as early as the start of the year.

Students find deals at student-run book exchange

What began as a COM project became a reality in the Rotunda this week...

LAUREN RUSSELL
STAFF WRITER

Many students showed up Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night to exchange, buy and sell their books in a book exchange created and run by a group of students for a project in their group Communication and leadership class.

"It started as a group project for our COM class, but we got really into it and realized that we had really put together something good; that a book exchange would really benefit Alma College," said Carly Uthoff (08), member of the group.

The book exchange allowed organized by department and pick out the books they needed.

"[The exchange] was so much easier than taking books to the store because you have

to do receipts and there are long lines [at the store]," said Heather Richardson (07). "This is a great opportunity to help students make a buck fairly and mutually."

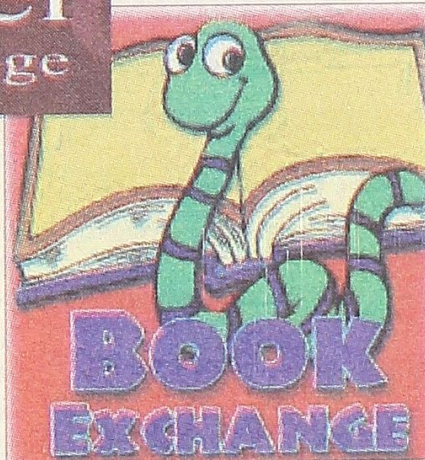
"Our campus lacks a more affordable alternative to selling back and buying books," said Uthoff. "We wanted to try it out and give people the opportunity to have one less thing to stress out about."

According to Uthoff, the bookstore was informed about the event by the group prior to the exchange.

"[The bookstore] happy

SEE EXCHANGE PG. 2

Kiltie
Korner
Alma College



students to bring the books they wanted to sell to the rotunda on Monday night, fill out book information and price it. On Tuesday and Wednesday, students could come back and look through binders

Happy Holidays from the Almanian!

Diversity surrounds Alma College

ANNA ZICHI
STAFF WRITER

Whether or not we are all willing to admit it diversity surrounds us here at Alma College. So many times we simply classify it as being ethnicity and skin color based that we forget that we are all simply diverse from one another. Every single student has been raised with different backgrounds and whether or not we like it that is exactly what diversity is.

"All I ever hear is that 'Alma is not very diverse,'" said **Patricia Chase**, Director of Student Development and Counseling. "That is why we are trying to create an awareness and climate in order to embrace this idea and to learn."

Awareness to this idea has been created through the Diversity Advisory Council put in charge by **Saundra Tracy**, President of Alma College, and also through the Prejudice Reduction Workshops. These workshops took place December 1, 2006 and December 5, 2006 and were lead by Chase and **Ulane Klymyshyn**, Director of the Multicultural Education Center at Central Michigan University.

"The underlying principles of the model state that hearing the stories of others helps in shifting attitudes and that skill training leads to empowerment," said **Ann Hall**. Both Hall and Chase were certified in prejudice reduction in Washington D.C. earlier this year.

The goal of this workshop is to create sensitivity to and

awareness of the fact that we are all different from each other. "By doing so, we can use that knowledge to become a more welcoming campus for all individuals," said Hall.

Chase said, "It is my belief that by working together we can promote a climate that is free from discriminating language and actions. We

**"We all have prejudices...
The next step is recognizing it and figuring out what to do."**

Patricia Chase

can encourage open and honest communication, improve our self-awareness and use this knowledge to understand each other and celebrate our differences."

These workshops have been initially done to see who all is interested in presenting this new awareness to all of campus. Chase said, "We really hope that student groups will step up, interact together, and help lead others." These groups include: the International Club, the Non-tradition Student Organization, and PRIDE.

"Someday every student will go out into the world, and part of an education should be learning how to approach and interact with others," said Chase. "In the end it will be a great disservice to ourselves

if we do not learn how too."

Small grants have awarded to the Diversity Action Committee, which will help further promote these ideas. Next semester the group is hoping to, with the help of students, organize a Diversity Day. It would be presented in McIntyre Mall, and would run all day with presentations from different cultures.

This would allow students to learn more about the College's student body, and hopefully open their minds to the differences that surround them. Administrators are hoping that it will become an annual event that students will look forward too.

Krissie Divers, Newberry Hall Director, has also been extremely active in promoting this training throughout all of the residence halls, and will eventually help incorporate it into pre-term. Chase hopes to have these workshops completely student oriented and have them be trained in teaching the workshops.

A survey will be distributed to the residence halls soon to try and understand the attitudes of students and what they feel needs to be worked on where diversity among the students is concerned.

Alma College has an extremely unique student body that goes out of its way to help and understand others. Now we just need to take it one step farther and attempt to completely understand our differences. "We all have prejudices [pre-judged ideas about others]," said Chase. "The next step is recognizing it and figuring out what to do."

CRL from pg. 1...

provided by the CRL is a matter of personal choice," said **John Leipzig**, Director of the CRL.

The ultimate goal is to reach the entire campus population before their graduation either directly through participation in CRL projects or by way of the academic and co-curricular contributions of those students who are actively involved in the CRL.

The CRL Fellows Program, which "is the most intensive and demanding of the programs offered for Alma College students" has an inaugural class of fifty "Fellows" recruited from the 2008 and 2009 graduating classes, said Leipzig.

Through membership in the program, "I hope to gain the experience necessary for life beyond Alma College," said **Liana Easterby (08)**.

This group of students will be holding off-campus development activities in Ghost Ranch, New Mexico.



CRL Fellows at the Ghost Ranch in New Mexico for a conference.

The "Fellows" is one of many programs provided by the Center.

Another "global leadership institute" will be conducted outside of the continental United States each year. This year it will be in Wroxton, England from July 31-August 11, 2007.

Fellows are required to attend monthly meetings, seminars, and speaker presentations.

The program receives most of its funding from a \$500,000 grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. as well as private donations from the Hayden Foundation and Antie and Paul Newhagen. The sustainability of its base set of projects, including off-campus service trips such as Alternative Break, hosting speakers, and course development plans, is chiefly funded by a \$500,000 Lilly Endowment, Inc. grant.

While this clearly excludes the majority of the campus, the experiences gained by the Fellows individually and as a member among other Fellows will benefit other Alma College students indirectly, but significantly said Leipzig.

"Because it is still the preliminary stages, it may seem that the focus is on a select group of students," said **Kim Hoeltzel (08)**, "but the future of the program will move towards integrating the whole campus. It's still the beginning."

Rotunda from pg. 1...

new furniture, new lighting, new carpet and game tables.

"The survey was to see what the students want and need to have happen to the space," said **Ashley Gombar (08)**, who attended the student leadership dinner where the subject was brought up. "[Administration] is really trying to accommodate students."

According to Tracy, "the decisions will be made based on student input."

Talk of remodeling has moved through the campus many times, but, finally, administration has begun to start making plans.

"I think [the renovation idea] is mostly to make Alma look better to potential students, and to make facilities for current students work better

for their needs," said Gombar.

The survey also offered the prize of a \$25 gift certificate to the 100th student to take

"I think [the renovation idea] is mostly to make Alma look better to potential students..."

Ashley Gombar (08)

the survey. The *Almanian* and Jerry Scoby's office would like to congratulate Derek Harrison for being the 100th student. At close of the survey

on Wednesday 313 students had already responded to it, according to Scoby.

Jerry Scoby, vice president of finance and administration, said, "We are very impressed with the interest and participation in this survey."

They are currently in the process of summarizing the results to get the greatest impact from the survey. The results should be released in a future issue of the *Almanian*. Administration is in the process of making some quick fixes to adapt to students needs and you can expect more improvements coming in the near future.

No matter the number, administration has given students the chance to give their input on big changes happening on campus.

Exchange from pg. 1...

with the competition because sell-back prices are going down even more this year," she said.

According to Donna Sinclair, manager of the Kiltie

Korner, the sell-back prices, which used to be half the amount paid for the book if the instructor was using it the next semester, are now based on new or used books.

"This is not our decision, it is a corporate decision," said Sinclair. "This is a nationwide thing. The bookstore has a bad rep that we are always ripping people off. [The Kiltie Korner] does not set

the prices."

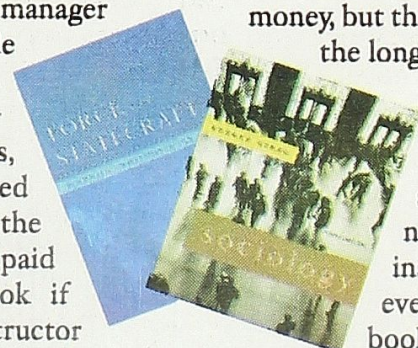
There are some problems when doing the exchange, according to Sinclair.

"[Students] might save money, but they might lose in the long run," she said.

Instructors will change their minds or students may not know if the instructor will even use the same book from past semesters, according to Sinclair.

No matter the problems that could be associated with the exchange, the group had a successful exchange.

"The students so far have really liked it," said Uthoff, "...We have had some really happy students."



One-Act Play Festival returns

FAINA POLT
STAFF WRITER

The semester is winding to a close, and the theatre department is planning to end 2006 with a bang. The annual presentation of the One-Act Play Festival this weekend is another event for the Alma community to look forward to.

This year, the Festival will feature seven plays directed by upper-level theatre students. Along with the directing, nearly every other aspect of putting on a production will be performed by students as well, including acting, make-up, lightning, and scenery construction, among others.

Being allowed to participate in all parts of the theatre is a great opportunity for Alma's students. It is important to be able to learn every aspect of one's craft, after all. First time director, **Emily Aslakson (07)** said, "I feel that I've learned a lot about directing through acting; and now, with my first time directing a production, I feel as though I've learned a lot about acting."

Aslakson will be directing a play called "Electric Roses" by David Howard. The play centers around a woman in an abusive relationship with her husband and follows both characters as they struggle with their individual decisions and their consequences. "Electric Roses" is basically

about the power of love and forgiveness," Aslakson said.

Apart from being an accomplished actor, **Philip Himebaugh (07)** feels that there is very importance to develop skills in other areas of theatre production. "I believe it is vitally important

"It is always important to showcase all of the different skills that the students possess,"

-Rebecca Peacock (08)

for students to get this opportunity to showcase all of their skills in the theatre," Himebaugh said, "it is an experience which really is priceless to a student of the theatre who is hoping to make a living in the theatre some day."

Himebaugh will be working on the play "Dropping the Bomb," which is actually written by Alma alum, James Kuhl (01). "It is basically about relationships," Himebaugh said, "How romantic relationships can be fun and dynamic, but also tense and difficult." Still, it is a comedy, and the audience ought to come prepared to laugh.

Rebecca Peacock (08) will be directing a play entitled "Help," by Neena Beber. "It is always important to showcase all of the different skills that

the students possess," said Peacock, "The work that is most commonly seen is the work of the actors, so it is nice to have an opportunity for designers, directors, and stage managers to have that same opportunity." Every effort that goes into a show's production is vital; sometimes that is especially true for backstage work that cannot be obviously seen.

For most student actors and directors, it is hard to pinpoint which they enjoy doing more or which presents more difficulty. "As far as whether acting or directing is more difficult, it is kind of an apples to oranges type of comparison," said Himebaugh, "I prefer acting, but I really believe actors can learn a great deal about acting through directing." Each field contains its own rewards and challenges.

The One-Acts are a great chance for students to delve deeper into the theatrical arts. "For the students to be able to work more independently is great for the department as a whole," said Aslakson, "because it really turns into a collaborative process and we all grow because of it."

The One-Act Play Festival will take place this weekend, at 8 PM on Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9, along with a 3 PM performance on Sunday, December 10. Contact the Heritage Center soon to reserve tickets.

FCCE raises money, gives laugh

KRISTA PENNINGTON
STAFF WRITER

Last week in Hamilton, the Forgotten Children of Eastern Europe (FCEE) student group was raising money for postage to send all the clothes collected to Ukraine.

FCEE adopted an orphanage in 2001. The Veselka Orphanage, meaning 'Rainbow' in Ukrainian, it is located outside of Kiev, and houses approximately forty-five children, ranging from age two to sixteen. At sixteen, they must leave the orphanage, but they are assisted in finding a trade school.

The majority of the children have Chernobyl certificates, meaning their parents were exposed to the nuclear disaster. "These kids just need lots of love and reassurance that people do love them and care about

them, which is why we are sending them a ton of clothes as well as care bags made from the ladies of Alpha Xi Delta," said **Amy Wegener (08)**.

Last June, Wegener and **Emelia Shoyer (08)** spent two weeks living at the orphanage, an experience Wegener called "the most amazing and eye opening of my life." Next Semester, FCEE will be raising money to put new bathrooms in the orphanage. Right now, they only have one toilet and one shower for over 20 girls, and the shower has very little to no water pressure. "We had first hand experience, she used the hot water, and it ran out when I was going to shower, so the very nice women workers heated up buckets of water so that I could shower," said Wegener.

"Since adopting the orphanage in 2001, we

have installed heating and plumbing, but we still have many goals," said **Dave Lapham (08)**. "The orphanage is currently \$16,000 in debt from a recent roof collapse."

This past fundraiser was a coin war, raising over \$50 for the Veselka Orphanage's care package postage. The person who received the most change in his jar agreed to do something silly for all the students. The four contestants were Mr. Smiley (Sodexo), Grant Woodman (Director of Campus Life), Dr. Beckmann (Biochemistry) and Dr. Gorton (Political Science). Smiley and Woodman were going to serve the students, like a waiter during one meal at Hamilton, Beckman was going to dress up in costume for a day, and Dr. Gorton, the winner, sang a country song in front of all at Hamilton.

Food Fancy

The 'lose weight' regimen for your resolution

JENNIFER ANDERSON
COPY EDITOR



With the holidays fast approaching, many of you may be strategizing your plan to fight off the couple pounds of Christmas comfort. It is likely that your New Year's resolution may also have "weight loss" somewhere in the description. For these reasons, this week's article is to inform you on healthy weight loss.

Fasting or skipping meals does not lead to long-term, successful weight loss. Breakfast is the meal to jumpstart your metabolism and tell your body to get in gear. It also helps regulate your appetite for the rest of the day. Scrambled eggs are a great source of protein, phosphorus, iron, and vitamins A, B2, and B12. Whole wheat toast and strawberries is a significant source of fiber and almost 150 percent RDA for vitamin C in 1 cup strawberries. Despite popular belief, adding a little pat of butter to your toast or eggs is a positive thing—it helps your body absorb fat-soluble vitamins.

Nectarines and Almonds are a great midmorning snack to keep your energy levels elevated and help you avoid eating a large lunch. These superfoods give you fiber, protein, vitamins, minerals, and heart-healthy fats.

For lunch, having a colorful spinach, veggie, and chicken salad brings tremendous benefits. A spinach salad with cucumbers, carrots, red peppers, cherry tomatoes, and cooked chicken breast, topped with an olive-oil-based vinaigrette dressing gives you over 50 percent RDA for vitamin A, plus dietary fiber and iron. Any time your plate is naturally colorful, your body will reap the benefits.

Low-fat yogurt with grapes is a perfect midday snack to provide you with calcium, protein, fiber, and vitamin C. Plus, grapes are packed with healthful antioxidants.

For dinner, salmon or tuna steak with Spanish rice and broccoli gives you a great source of omega-3 fatty acids. One cup of broccoli provides over 80 percent of the RDA for vitamin C, 30 percent of your daily calcium, and disease-fighting phytochemicals.

For dessert, all you have to remember is portion. One half cup low-fat vanilla ice cream with 1 cup mixed fruit can be a tasty dessert under 200 calories.

To supplement each meal and every snack, the best tip I can give for weight loss and overall healthy body and skin, is to drink plenty of water. Most of the time (about 80 percent), when we feel hungry, we are actually just thirsty. Take a bite, and take a drink. Your body will thank you.

Enjoy the holidays and a happy beginning to the New Year.

-Meal suggestions compliment of *Ladies Home Journal*.

Jennifer's Secret Recipe Cookies

1 or 2 Tbsp margarine
2/3 cup mashed banana
1/3 cup brown sugar
Squeeze of honey (to substitute for 1/3 cup white sugar)
1 egg
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup and 2 Tbsp wheat flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup semi-sweet, milk chocolate, or carob chips
Cocoa powder for flavor if desired

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In medium bowl, mix together flour and baking soda; set aside. In mixing bowl, add sugar and honey to butter until creamy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Stir in flour mixture until well blended. Stir in chocolate chips. Drop batter onto lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake until lightly brown about 8 minutes. Makes about 2 dozen cookies.

A lesson from the Mongolian nation

BRAD BAUGHMAN
FREELANCE WRITER

At Mathen Mappilai Memorial Public school in Kerala, India, where **Sadie Laponsie (09)**, **Ashley Masoner (08)**, and I help out the teachers twice a week, the average tenth grader is trilingual. Their entire curriculum from lower KG to Standard 10 (for 11 and 12 they go on to higher secondary school at another location) is taught completely in English, and all students also have an hour-a-day class in Hindi. This is not unusual or outstanding. The majority of schools and colleges in the area are English medium.

Because of India's great linguistic diversity (India's regional languages are quite different from one another; there is a greater contrast between Tamil and Gujarati, for example, than there is between Spanish and French), as well as their commitment to teaching the two official national languages of Hindi and English in every school, it isn't considered a great achievement for a member of the middle class of this country to speak three, four, or even five languages. It's by no means the norm, because the majority of India has little access to good education. But those who have the means to learn them almost always learn several languages.

India is not unique in this respect. As globalization

"India and China together cover about a third of the world's people, and being able to communicate with their residents will become more and more important as they industrialize and as globalization continues."

marches on, most of the world is learning a second or third language, especially where a decent education is readily available. And often enough one of these extra languages is English.

So what about us? What about the most populous and arguably influential of the current "World Powers"? Well you tell me. How many languages do you speak? If it's two or more, congratulations. Now how many of your close friends and family can hold a real conversation in more than one language? If you come from an average family like mine, the answer will probably be one or two, tops. As it is, the students of MMM School are working away from the age of 3 or 4 to learn our language, and few of us even know what theirs is called, even though more than 30 million people speak it natively. I know I hadn't heard of Malayalam before this trip.

The monolingual guilt falls upon all of us, or at least those of us who can't communicate in more than one tongue. If you're like me, you know English and maybe a piddly little bit of one or two more, but nothing truly substantial. Well it's high time we get with it and join the rest of the world. And I personally think that Spanish is the most important language for Americans to learn, as knowing it and English allows one to communicate with almost anyone in the western hemisphere, including many of our own who have come from Latin America, and are still trying to learn English.

Other than Spanish, the two I think we need to give more importance to are Mandarin and Hindi, which have a billion speakers each. India and China together cover about a third of the world's people, and being able to communicate with their residents will become more and more important as they industrialize and as globalization continues. Not to mention it's a gesture of good will and commitment to that third of the world's people that we in the U.S. don't pay nearly enough attention to.

To wrap up, I feel I need to cover my butt a little. I don't want to sound anti-American. I just think that if we want to deserve all the attention we get around the world, we need to step back and look at our faults as a nation, and try to fix them. And I think that's more patriotic than pretending they don't exist.

Charity opportunities abound on campus

FAINA POLT
STAFF WRITER

As the holiday season quickly approaches, the Alma campus is caught in a whirlwind of shopping frenzy and Christmas planning. Amid the chaos, however, lies the chance to help people who may have fallen on hard times.

Several philanthropic opportunities have sprung up, eager to provide those in need with help and kindness over the holidays. While it is understandable that most students lack sufficient funds for serious charity contribution, it is still possible for the average "poor college kid" to help out on a smaller scale.

MacCurdy House is currently sponsoring the Women's Aid Drive. Students are asked to donate some basic toiletries and hygienic supplies that will go to women's shelters where they

will help to make the lives of many women a great deal simpler. The choice over whether one should buy food or soap does not seem possible in today's society, yet it happens much more often than anyone would like to believe. As a result, even the smallest donation of a box of female hygiene products will go a long way and make someone very grateful. Boxes are currently set up to receive donations in SAC and the MacCurdy House.

Another opportunity, they Holiday Soldier Drive, has just wrapped up. Mostly an individual effort, there was, unfortunately, a rather low level of participation. Organized by Emily Earnest (07), the Drive was a first

not enough," said Earnest, "I was thankful that I was able to send a bit more during the holidays in order to help keep up moral."

A yearly part of the holiday festivities on campus is the Giving Tree. Located in the lobby of the Heritage Center, the Tree is a general success. It is laden with ornaments that contain the names of local Head Start children, along with their sizes and the gifts they'd like to receive. Students and faculty are asked to stop by, pick up an ornament, and then place the wrapped gift back under the tree. "The Giving Tree is a wonderful way to brighten a child's holiday season," said organizer Frances Groves. It is a great way of positively i m p a c t i n g another without

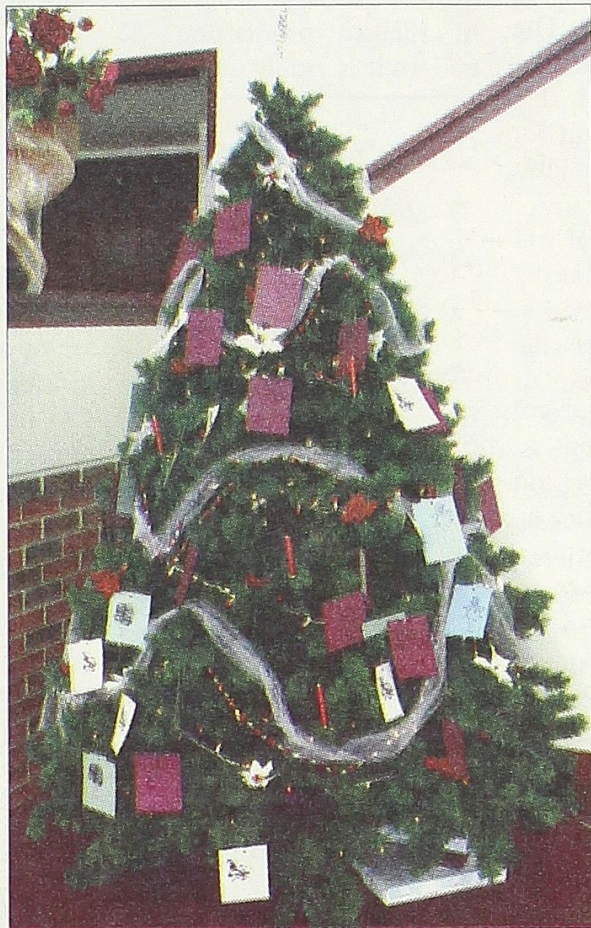


Photo courtesy of Nick Green

The Giving Tree is just one philanthropic event taking place on Alma's campus over the holiday season.

time event at Alma. "I send packages to troops overseas in combat zones through the Any Soldier Program," she said, "I have been doing this for almost a year. I wanted to get some extra help for the holidays so I had a donation drive on campus." The Holiday Soldier Drive was a great way to reach out past the local community. "[The best part is] being able to give more to soldiers away from home. I do what I can but I always feel it is

going broke in the process. The Giving Tree finishes its "run" on Friday, December 8th. However, if there are any questions, please contact Groves at x7130.

The holiday season can be a very difficult time for people feeling down. As such, this is the best time for students to do what they can to help their communities—both local and global. Small actions go a long way and in these hard times, there are many people out there in need.

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Tis' the season to give back with holiday spirit - volunteer

ANNA ZICHI
STAFF WRITER

As the holiday season is quickly approaching, many of the sights and sounds we have come to associate with it are, too. Commercials are everywhere, Christmas trees are being sold, lights are up on houses, and bell ringers are out in front of the stores.

I like to think of myself as being a good Christian who is willing to help everyone. However, never in a million years did I expect to be a Salvation Army bell ringer.

We all like the idea of giving to those less fortunate than us; but when most of us go into a store we quickly avert our eyes or pretend to take a phone call simply so we do not have to make eye contact with a bell ringer and feel as

if we need to give money.

When most people do give money, it is simply the change that we received inside or a couple of dollar bills. However, the most surprising thing I found while out last Saturday was

"I never would have never expected such generosity from so many people, even though it is the holiday season."

that people actually give 20-dollar bills. I never would have never expected such generosity from so many people, even though it is the holiday season.

It is an inevitable fact that sooner or later you will run into a charity bell ringer. Hopefully, though, they will be so memorable that you will never forget the good they have done, no matter how many years it has been since you have seen them.

One such bell ringer for me was back in my hometown in front of Target. He was standing there ringing the bell and singing. But he was not singing any song; he was singing "I'm happy happy happy. I'm happy that you're happy. I'm happy we're all happy. I'm happy happy happy."

He just stood there with a big smile on his face, just singing; and everyone that entered the store, probably spending a little too much

SEE GIVING PG. 6

Students want earlier notices before attending new events

KRISTINA SCHWAB
STAFF WRITER

Everyone gets the daily emails from one of the administrators on campus every morning. I'll wake up one morning, look at my browser still open from the night before, see that I had around 19 emails in my inbox that I still deem important, click "Check Mail" and 20 new emails pop up, 19 of which have no importance to me.

Granted they want to send out all emails to all students because they have no idea who wants which email, but sometimes

it's a little ridiculous. I've missed important emails before because they're in the midst of emails that have nothing to do with me.

For events that are not seen as up to the caliber of, say, the Indoor Show or Festival

of Carols, emails tend to be sent out the day before or even the morning of the event. Students need ample time to plan, especially later in the semester.

the lack of desire to sing along with our president around a Christmas tree or the lack of notification via email or fliers posted around campus is yet to be determined.

Who doesn't like to sing carols? Maybe it was just poor timing. Perhaps people are just too busy at this time of the semester to take an hour or two out of their schedule to spread yuletide joy.

It would seem with major events, emails are sent out weeks in advance. Sometimes they're sent so far in advance, I completely forget the event is even coming and forget to go. However, for

events such as the Indoor Show and Festival of Carols, which tend to sell out very quickly, advanced notice is almost a necessity.

There's a very small margin of acceptable time in which emails should be sent out. For

Campus has opportunity in rotunda for recreation

All over campus, I keep hearing these whispers of the amazing new things that can be improved in the rotunda. I keep hearing about how important it is that we make that place into an area of student congregation and sociability. I keep hearing about how this is one of the biggest, most important improvements that can be made on campus...Ok, maybe all of that was a little hyperbolic. But it is apparently pretty important. At least, that's what we keep getting told.

You see, apparently, we get to have a voice in how this thing is remodeled. Now, I don't know about any of you, but it seems to me that no one really uses the rotunda as a meeting place or a conference center. So maybe we should take into consideration changing not only its furnishings, but also its purpose.

Personally, I would like to see a big-screen T.V. devoted to sports programs. Then we can put in a pool table, air hockey, ping-pong, and some dartboards. It could be like a miniature pool hall.

Or, maybe we could get a student-run arcade. Actually, that would be really cool. I mean, think about it: DDR machines, Time Crisis, your favorite zombie shooter, Mortal Kombat, pinball machines, maybe even ski-ball (that's for all of you that still have a Jones for Chuck-E-Cheese going on).

If you really wanted to make it interesting, we could turn it into a student-run facility that generated profit for a student organization.

larger events, earlier emails are acceptable and sometimes mandatory to allow ample times for parents and family to be notified. Generally those in the ensemble or drama productions will know the performance date and will have already notified family members.

For smaller events, less time is needed, which is possibly why emails are sent out the day before the event occurs, but again, students need time to plan. If the event is on a Monday or Tuesday, send out emails notifying the student body on Thursday or Friday. If it is Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, it would be acceptable to send them on Monday or at the very latest of Tuesday.



KEVIN BILBREY
STAFF WRITER

I would totally spend way more than I should there (and I know quite a few of you out there would too). And hey, if we knocked out Jones Auditorium, we could combine the two ideas and create one giant student recreational area. I would definitely appreciate it.

It wouldn't be all that difficult, either. The game machines can actually be acquired fairly easily from a company such as BMI Gaming, which handles leasing and buying, as well as delivery and pick-up. Now, granted, this would require a much larger refurbishing budget than we are likely to be receiving at this time, but I think that over time it would work out for the better (although we might have to deal with parents asking about how that much gaming interferes with studying during campus tours).

However, I doubt that any of this is really going to make any difference in the decision-making of how the rotunda is remodeled; but I just thought I would throw some of my ideas out there. Who knows, maybe it will have some affect, even if it's just a lowly little Ms. Pac-Man machine.

After three and a half years of attending this college, complaints have not failed to reach my ear about the lack of information. It has definitely improved over the past year or so—at least we're now getting emails at some point about everything happening on campus—but I've still heard complaints about response time to events occurring.

Don't get me wrong: I'm not angry or disappointed in the offices and anyone else who may send emails to students. I think it is a fantastic way of making sure information is reaching every student—except those who don't check their email. We just need a more efficient way of spreading the word.

Campus X-Mas List

1. Better attempts at dialogue & communication from staff members
2. Decreased costs (tuition)
3. More recreational facilities
4. A college staff more consistently involved with students
5. Improved residence options
6. More consistently positive interactions with Physical Plant
7. Drastically improved enrollment
8. More work-study options linked to student majors

Graphic courtesy of Derek Harrison

Seniors should devote efforts instead of money for gift

KEVIN BILBREY
STAFF WRITER

So I've heard that the senior class is looking for ideas as to what they should purchase and give to the college as the senior gift. I'm sure that suggestions have been thrown around to gift a plaque, perhaps a new monument, a scholarship, maybe even a check for random use. But if all of you seniors out there would like one more suggestion, well, I have one: get us more freshmen.

You see, as everyone knows, we have a mild enrollment problem here at Alma, with each successive class getting a little smaller. My idea for your senior gift is for you to raise those numbers.

Now, I am sure that all of you reading this are saying, "That is a completely outrageous idea," or, "Man, this guy's an idiot." Now, while both of those things may be true (I am not going to try to argue either way), I would like you to hear me out. I believe that if every graduating senior were to go out and speak to at least one person about all of the great things that Alma has to offer, and convince him or her to come here, then our enrollment problem would be at an end.

I mean, after all, if we got one new recruit for every student that left, then we can at least guarantee that our student body won't go down, and all of those students combined with those who come here of their own volition will make for a good-sized freshman class next year.

I am not going to tell you what the best way to accomplish this would be, and I'm not even going to

say that all of the students have to necessarily come in next year. So if you feel that the best way to get a new Alma freshman is to make one, then go ahead. We'll see them in 18 years or so. The point is to pass on what a great experience the place has been, and how much you care about it.

And do you know what the

best part of all of this for you is? You get to take all that money that would have been spent on a gift and instead take it and have one massive graduation party; and who doesn't want that? Plus, let's face it, as much as you giving money to our school means to those of us that are still going to be here, it seems kind of shallow and impersonal. I, at

least, would much prefer it if you gave of yourselves and kept the money. It's much more meaningful.

So come on class of '07. If you really care about this fine institution and the students whom you are so cruelly leaving behind to start your lives in the "real" world, then you would take the time out of your busy schedules and do

this one small favor for us.

I don't think I'm asking all that much really; just go out there and bring home the bacon, or something like that. Feel free to insert your own favorite clichéd line for a provider. Trust me, instituting this idea will make a much greater impression on this school than any other gift you could give.



"I do fine every day. I get out here every day but Sunday. You have to be friendly with [customers] and they'll be friendly back."

- Dave L.

Hoornstra, Alma

Hoornstra said that overall patrons are generous, and he even sees ten dollar or five dollar bills donated. Overall, he said that he enjoys the work as a retired GM employee.

Giving from pg. 5...

money, could not help but also smile. So when I went out there and stood in front of Kmart for an hour, I tried to keep that type of spirit up.

It was not as hard considering that I had both **Heather Evans (09)**, and **Angelica Luttrell (09)** with me. We started off the hour by talking with one another and saying "thank

you" and "happy holiday's" to those that donated money. After about 20 minutes we realized just how loud those bells actually were, and that we had exhausted most of our conversation. So we turned to singing Christmas Carols.

We began with the obvious "Jingle Bells," and quickly moved into "The 12 Days of Christmas." As we were singing, we began having problems around the tenth day. After sitting there for a minute or so we asked a

woman what the tenth day was. She informed us she did not know but would get back to us. We managed to muddle our way through the rest of it, and by the third time we sang it, we had all 12 days down pat.

While singing, we got many people to join in with us, and had many tell us how wonderful we sounded. Not only did we sound horrendous because we were trying to sing over the bells, but we were laughing so hard most

of the time that we could not be understood.

As I saw the faces of the little kids that put money into the pot, I became extremely grateful for all that I have, but also for participating in this tradition.

I hope that everyone helps out in their community, and that those people that shopped at Kmart that day will tell their families about the three bell ringers that were having the time of their lives.

The Almanian

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"Alma College's student run newspaper serving the campus community since 1907."

Statement of Purpose

The Almanian is a newspaper published not only for the students at this institution, not just for the faculty on campus, and not solely for the administrators who work for Alma, but for all people interested in Alma College and the lives it touches. The writers, editors, publishers, and distributors of this newspaper are dedicated to producing an interesting accurate, timely, fun, and error free newspaper on a weekly basis in order to inform and educate the people for whom it is intended about the culture and nature of Alma College.

Publication

The Almanian is distributed to Alma College's campus Thursday evenings and is sent to subscribers the following day. The paper is published weekly, with the exception of academic recesses.

Letter Policy

Letters are published as layout space allows. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. *The Almanian* reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Tuesday before requested publication. E-mail letters to the editors at 07dtharr@alma.edu or address letters to *The Almanian*, Newberry Hall, Alma College.

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Staff Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in editorials without bylines reflect the views of *The Almanian* editorial staff. They in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

The Better Darn Sports Column

And the winner is?

After a week of waiting, the Gagliardi Trophy Committee has announced our own **Josh Brehm (07)** as one of four finalists for the Gagliardi Trophy.

This year, for the first time, there are four finalists, out of which the Trophy Committee will select the winner Tuesday the 12th.

The field has already been narrowed down from 10 finalists to four—one representing each region in the Division III football arena.

The Gagliardi Trophy is presented to the Division III player of the year. The committee selects the winner on the basis of athletic and academic achievements, as well as community service.

So, what's my take on this? Well, according to the Saint John University's web site (the school who hosts this trophy), Brehm is leaps, bounds, yards, passes, and records above the competition.

The other three finalists—a QB, DL, and RB—cannot come close to comparing to the career numbers that Brehm has posted.

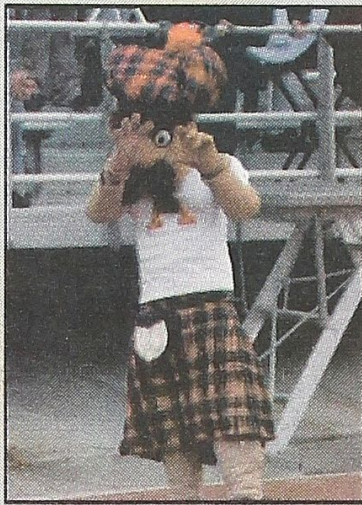
Brehm is the first Scott to be a finalist for this award. In fact, he is the first MIAA player to be nominated in the history of this award.

So, how can we keep up on the newest developments?

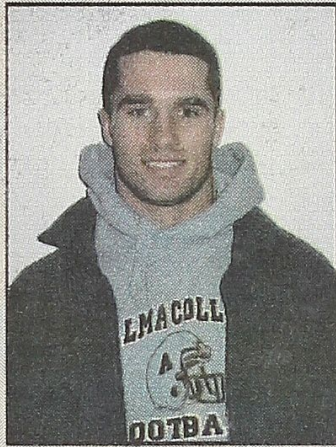
Well, let's just say our friend facebook has "The Official Josh Brehm Fan Club" and you bet I'm a member.

Already this group has 51 members and is growing by

DREW COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR



Scots Watch



the day. With school spirit visibly on the rise this year—with the TKE's at the home football games, Scotty's Bravehearts at the basketball games, and the Pep Bands; Brehm gives us Scots one more reason to cheer.

Good luck to Josh as he makes his way to becoming the first ever MIAA player to be the Gagliardi Trophy Winner—and the best Division III player of the year.

To join facebook's Josh Brehm Fan Club, visit:
<http://alma.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2223997961>

Want to write for
The Almanian?

Pick up an application on the office door located in the basement of Newberry!

Or email us!
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Kohtala addresses record, reasons, and then responds

JORDAN BROWN
SPORTS WRITER

The Alma College Men's basketball team is 1-4, with plenty of season to go. "We're a relatively young team—not as young as teams 3 or 4 years ago—but we're a young team."

Ed Kohtala, the men's team head coach, fielded questions confidently about his team. He said he's aware of the record and how it looks, but that he knows the reasons, the team's goals, and how to turn things around.

The team is young—two of three captains are sophomores: **Dave McNally (09)**, who played, and started a few for the varsity team last season, and **Ryan DeHaan (09)**.

The only senior captain is **Isaac Smith (07)**, a returning talent who Coach Kohtala said has been a boon for his leadership.

"In our league, you strive to be top 4. If you're in the top 4 then you get to host your first round game of the conference tourney, which is a big advantage."

Kohtala said the team can do it; they just have to get

some rhythm—and some practice. "Three of my guys were in football, and during the end of that season, they missed 20 practices."

Kohtala said that they're in good physical condition, but they aren't in synch with the team yet.

"The Big thing right now is getting in a lot of practice time. There's no quick

way to get guys to play together other than practice and game experience."

Kohtala said that the problems seem big, but with some court time, they will fix themselves. "We have lots of good shooters on the team, but right now we are

See basketball page 8...

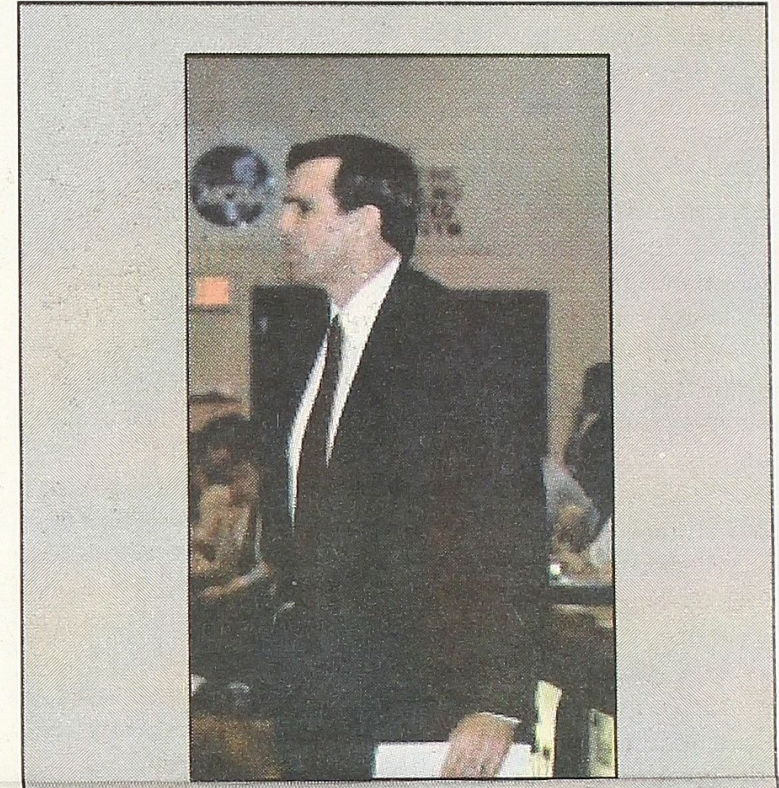


Photo courtesy Skip Traynor
Ed Kohtala directing the men's team in a game last season. The Scots ended the season 10-16

Alma on the hunt for new Athletic Director

JORDAN BROWN
SPORTS WRITER

Alma has had a recent move in the athletic department. Ellen Curtis, the Athletic Director has taken a job with the Admissions Office, and the search is on for a replacement.

Curtis will be taking a job that is organizing Alma

alumni in a network to help more with college recruitment. Curtis, who used to be at admissions before she took the athletic director position, will be working in a recently created job in the admissions office.

"My job is to help bridge the alumni with the administration. We used to have individual alumni help," says Curtis, "but we want to create a mass

system of communication. There are many teachers and coaches in our alumni pool, and we want to utilize them."

Curtis said that the school didn't have a shortlist of candidates, but that they knew the kind of person they wanted for the job. Nicholas Piccolo, the President of Student Life, is putting together a national search for a replacement for the athletic director position.

"We're in the beginning of putting together a search committee. We're still finalizing the job description that we're going to advertise."

One of Piccolo's main spots he'll be searching is a national conference in Orlando this January. The position won't remain empty after Curtis' exit though. John Leister, who coaches both football and baseball at Alma College, will act as interim Athletic Director. He will be taking over the day-to-day duties of the Athletic director.

"This isn't my life goal or

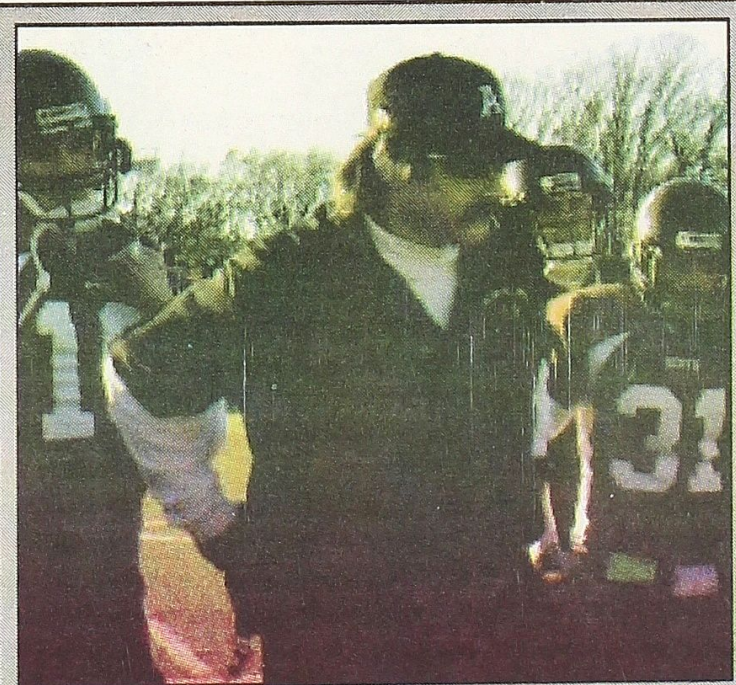
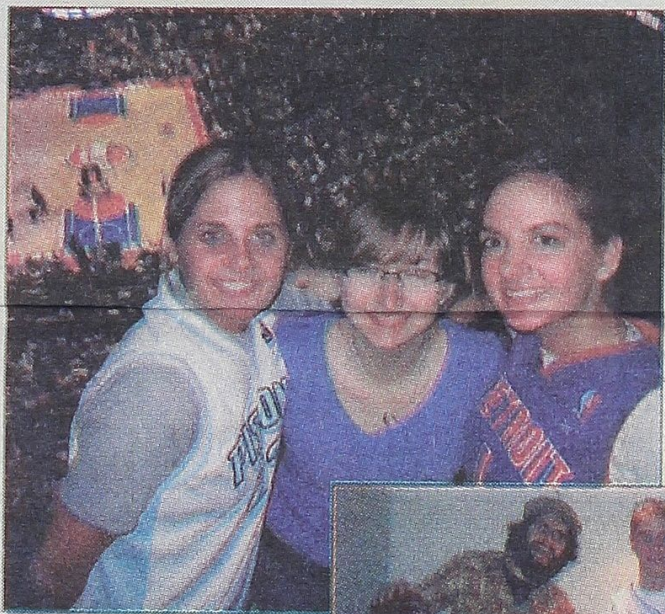
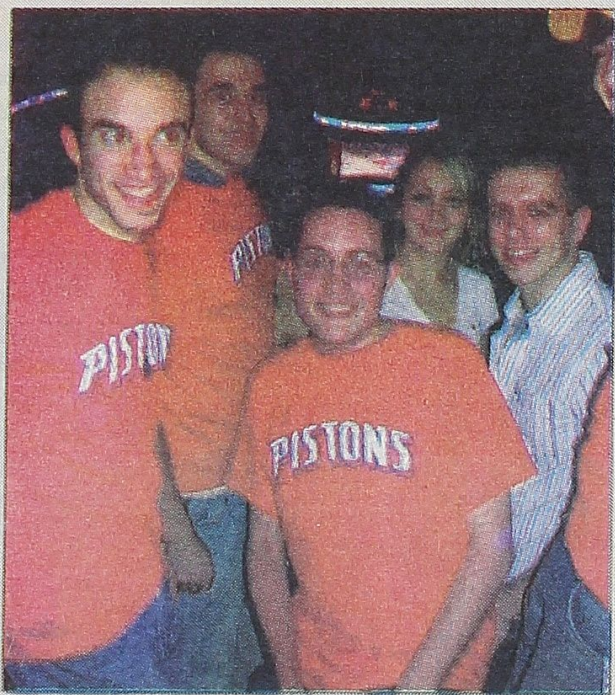


Photo Courtesy Skip Traynor
Interim Athletic Director Jon Leister

See Director page 8...

ACUB gives taste of Deeeeeeetroooooit Baaaaasketbaaall

Last Friday, nearly 150 students from Alma College travelled down to The Palace of Auburn Hills to watch the Detroit Pistons take on the New York Knicks



Basketball continued from page 7...

ing opportunities with them because we don't know how to work with each other yet—and it's not the passing; we're a really unselfish team." Kohtala stresses that unselfish nature. "Being unselfish is good, it means trouble for the other teams when we find the rhythm of getting the ball to our shooters.

When asked about the team's size, Kohtala waved it away. "We're not tall, but we're not small, if you get what I'm saying. We don't have the height that other teams do, but with our strength, we play like we're taller."

"We're not tall, but we're not small, if you get what I'm saying. We don't have the height that other teams do, but with our strength, we play like we're taller."

Ed Kohtala
Men's Basketball
Coach

Coach Kohtala said he isn't worried about the rest of the season, and if

any other team's opening records are a sign, then he is right to be calm. Hope, who is supposed to be the top contender this year in the MIAA, is 3-3, while Albion is 1-3, and Calvin is 2-3.

Kohtala was particularly happy with the campus support this season, especially at last Saturday's game. "We had wonderful support from the students. There was a great atmosphere with the pep band and the kids in the stands, and that atmosphere is good for a developing team."

Director continued from page 7...

"This isn't my life goal or anything," says Leister, "I like coaching, and I'm going to be doing baseball this spring and football again in the fall. The college just needed me to help out, and I'm going to do what I can for the school."

"He'll be doing the administration side of things," says Curtis. "Making sure athletes stay eligible, keeping up with paperwork for the NCAA that keeps us affiliated, and game management—making sure the venue is ready for

athletic events and the people are there to run the events."

When asked how this change would affect the direction of Alma athletics, Curtis was quick to reassure. "Nothing will be put on the back burner. John is still keeping up with a couple of projects with Dr. Piccolo with regards to the vision of the athletic department."

Neither Curtis nor Piccolo elaborated on the projects, but Piccolo was direct in saying that things would be business

as usual. "We're just going to keep our heads above water."

"This isn't my life goal or anything, {...} the college just needed me to help out, and I'm going to do what I can for the school."

Jon Leister
Interim Athletic
Director

As part of a sell-out crowd, students from Alma College watched as the Detroit Pistons defeated the New York Knicks 108-100 this past Friday, December 1. ACUB is working on plans to have a similar event take place this spring when the American League Champion Detroit Tigers start up their 2007 campaign.

DREW COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR